

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Amend Claims 1 and 5, and cancel Claims 4 and 6.

1 (Currently amended). A combustion energy-operated setting tool for driving a fastening elements, comprising:\

a guide chamber (11);

a setting piston (13) displaceable in the guide chamber (11) by reaction gases of a fuel and having a piston stem (14); and

a bolt guide (20) for receiving and guiding the fastening elements and adjoining the guide chamber (11) in a setting direction, the bolt guide (20) having a first region (21) with an inner diameter (D1), and a second region (22) adjoining the first region (21) and extending from the first region (21) in a direction toward an end (24) of the bolt guide (20) remote from the guide chamber (11), the second region (22) having a predetermined length and an inner diameter (D2) smaller than the inner diameter (D1) of the first region (21) for braking a fastening element during a driving process,

wherein the bolt guide has a third region (23) adjoining the second region (22) and having an inner diameter (D3) greater than the inner diameter (D2)

of the second region (22), and wherein transition regions between the first and second regions (21, 22) and between the second and third regions (22, 23) are formed each as an inclined surface (27).

2. (Previously present). A setting tool according to claim 1, wherein the inner diameter (D1) of the first region (21) is greater than an outer diameter (D<sub>K</sub>) of the piston stem (14) and greater than an outer diameter (D<sub>F1</sub>) of an at least partially elastic, guide element (31) provided on a fastening element (30), and

Wherein the inner diameter (D2) of the second region (22) is smaller than the outer diameter (D<sub>F1</sub>) of the guide element (31) but greater than the outer diameter (D<sub>K</sub>) of the piston stem (14).

3. (Withdrawn). A setting tool according to claim 1, wherein the second region (22) extends up to the remote end (24) of the bolt guide (30).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently amended). A setting tool according to claim 4 1, wherein the inner diameter (D3) of the third region (23) corresponds to the inner diameter (D1) of the first region.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously presented). A setting tool according to claim 2, wherein the inner diameter of the second region (22) is smaller than the outer diameter ( $D_{F1}$ ) of the guide element (31) of the fastening element (30) by from .05mm to .5mm.

8-9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously presented – currently allowed). A setting tool according to claim 12, further comprising an adjusting member (2) for displacing the at least one displaceable member (22.1) into the bolt guide (20).

11. (Previously presented – currently allowed). A setting tool according to claim 10, wherein the adjusting member (26) is formed as a knurled screw.

12. (Previously presented – currently allowed). A combustion energy-operated setting tool for driving a fastening elements, comprising:

a guide chamber (11);

a setting piston (13) displaceable in the guide chamber (11) be reaction gases of a fuel and having a piston stem (14); and

a bolt guide (20) for receiving and guiding the fastening elements and adjoining the guide chamber (11) in a setting direction, the bolt guide (20) having a first region (21) with an inner diameter (D1), and a second region (22) adjoining the first region (21) and extending the first region (21) and extending in a direction toward an end (24) of the bolt guide (20) remote from the guide chamber (11), the second region (22) having an inner diameter (D2) smaller than the inner diameter (D1) of the first region (2), wherein the second region (22) is formed by at least one member (22.1) displaceable in the bolt guide (20), and a spring member is provided (25) for biasing the at least one displaceable member (22.1) in a direction out of the bolt guide (20).